

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02

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MC-02 /063 W

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R 081744Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0970

INFO SECDEF

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

S E C R E T LONDON 07030

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, MASS, US, NATO

SUBJECT: EURO GROUP MEETING

REF: LONDON 6581

1. WE SAW ARTHUR HOCKADAY (DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY, MOD) ON MAY 8 TO DISCUSS OUTCOME OF EURO GROUP MEETING HELD IN LONDON ON MAY 7 UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF DEFENSE SECRETARY MASON. HOCKADAY SAID MASON WAS PLEASED WITH MEETING, WHICH HE FELT HAD GONE WELL AND DURING WHICH HE FELT MINISTERS HAD BROKEN NEW GROUND ON SEVERAL ISSUES.

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2. HOCKADAY SAID MUCH OF DISCUSSION HAD BEEN DEVOTED TO

"BREAD AND BUTTER" ISSUES E.G. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS ON COMMUNICATIONS AND MILITARY MEDICINE. HE SAID THE MINISTERS DISCUSSED AND SIGNED STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES ON COOPERATIVE LOGISTICS THAT HAD BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION BY SUB-GROUPS FOR SOME MONTHS.

3. CHIEF ITEM OF INTEREST TO U.S. WAS PROPOSAL TABLED BY BRITISH DELEGATION FOR APPROACH TO WASHINGTON ON MAJOR COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR DESIGNED TO PROMOTE RATIONALIZED R & D AND PROCUREMENT WITHIN ALLIANCE. HOCKADAY SAID MASON WAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY CALLAGHAN REPORT (STATE 40510) AND THAT HE AND HIS FELLOW EURO GROUP MINISTERS GENERALLY FAVORED MAJOR ATTACK ON STANDARDIZATION PROBLEMS RATHER THAN MORE CAUTIOUS PROJECT-BY-PROJECT APPROACH PROPOSED BY OTHER STUDIES. MINISTERS WERE IN FULL AGREEMENT THAT SCHLESINGER STATEMENT TO DPC LAST DECEMBER THAT PROCUREMENT MUST BE "TWO WAY STREET" WAS AN IMPORTANT SIGNAL FROM THE U.S. AND SHOULD BE EXPLORED THOROUGHLY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY.

4. SECRETARY MASON, AS CHAIRMAN OF EURO GROUP, WILL BE WRITING TO SECRETARY SCHLESINGER THIS WEEK-END OR EARLY NEXT WEEK TO CONVEY SENSE OF EURO GROUP THAT COOPERATIVE PROCUREMENT IS VIEWED AS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT BY EUROPEANS AND TO SUGGEST THAT IT BE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSIONS IN RESTRICTED SESSION OF DPC LATER THIS MONTH. WE UNDERSTAND EURO GROUP DID NOT AGREE ON DOLLAR FIGURE FOR TARGET PROGRAM, NOR WAS A LIST OF SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT PROPOSALS DRAWN UP. NEVERTHELESS, BRITISH AND SEVERAL OTHER EURO GROUP PARTNERS ARE TRYING TO DEVELOP SMALL NUMBER OF ILLUSTRATIVE PROJECTS THAT MIGHT BE DISCUSSED BY DPC. STAFF OFFICERS FROM EURO GROUP PARTICIPANTS PROBABLY WILL BE GETTING TOGETHER SHORTLY BEFORE DPC TO COORDINATE APPROACH ON THESE MATTERS.

RICHARDSON

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